GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
FEMALE FOETICIDE
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was convened in Delhi recently on the issue of `female foeticide` under the aegis of the Indian Medical Association;

(b) if so, the measures suggested in the meeting to prevent female foeticide in the country; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these measures expeditiously?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 54 FOR 25.7.2001

(a) and (b): Indian Medical Association has informed that a meeting was convened by them on 24th June, 2001 at New Delhi.The following measures were largely discussed in the meeting:-

1. To create awareness in the society against female foeticide;

2. To use the services of the religious leaders to propagate this thought among the general public.

3. The IMA categorically said that all those doctors who will conduct this foeticide will be subjected to disciplinary measures; and

4. The Oath was taken under the guidance of Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Kanchi (copy Annexed).

(c) In order to curtail and eliminate sex selective female foeticides, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994(PNDT Act) banning disclosure of sex of foetus has been inoperation since 1st January, 1996 in all States and UTs except J&K.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. Letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focussed attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. The co-operation of the NGOs has also been elicited in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/unregistered clinics.

A meeting of the Appropriate Authorities of States and UTs appointed for the implementation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act at the very grass root level, 1994 was held on 30th June, 2001 in New Delhi to sensitise them for taking steps for enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

OATH

We the citizens of India and the representatives of various religions and sections of India hereby strongly condemn the inhuman and shameful practice of female foeticide.

Women have and would continue to have an extremely important place in our motherland. At this National Convention of religious leaders, we all take oath that we would use all resources at our command to propagate to the Indian masses to shun the atrocious act of female foeticide in our country.

We pledge our total commitment to the movement of abolishing Female Foeticide from the length and breadth of India and towards this cause we would leave no stone unturned.